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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

P.7016

No. 1404.

## SWAZILAND.

### REPORT FOR 1927.

*For Reports for 1925 and 1926 see Nos. 1307 and 1340  
(Price 6d. each).*



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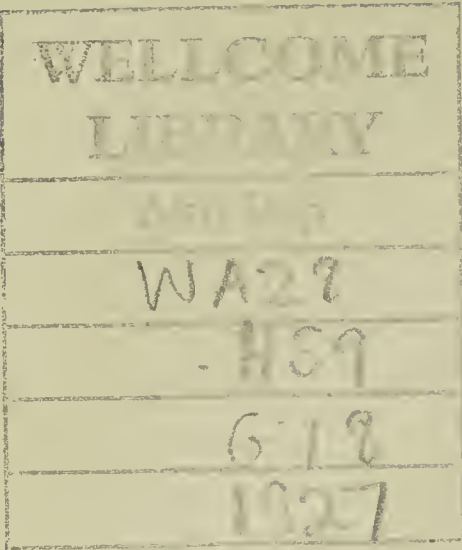
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SWAZILAND.  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1927\*.

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PREFACE.

History.

The Swazis are akin to the Zulu and other tribes of the south-eastern littoral. Up to about 100 years ago they occupied the country just north of the Pongolo River, but a hostile chief in their vicinity forced them farther north and, under their Chief Sobhuza, they then occupied the territory now known as Swaziland. This Chief, who died in 1839, was succeeded by Mswazi II. The further order of succession has been Ludonga, Mbandini, and Bhunu, whose son, Sobhuza II, was installed as Paramount Chief in 1921, after a long minority, during which his grandmother, Labotsibeni, acted as Regent.

\* In this Report the Financial Statements, which are for the year ended 31st March, 1928, are preliminary and not completely audited. All other details are for the calendar year 1927

The many concessions granted by Mbandini necessitated some form of European control, notwithstanding that the independence of the Swazis had been guaranteed in the Conventions of 1881 and 1884, entered into between the Government of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria and the Government of the late South African Republic. In 1890, soon after the death of Mbandini, a Provisional Government was established representative of the Swazis and the British and the South African Republic Governments. In 1894, under a Convention between the British and the South African Republic Governments, the latter was given powers of protection and administration, without incorporation, and Swaziland continued to be governed under this form of control until the outbreak of the Boer War in 1899.

In 1902, after the conclusion of hostilities in the Transvaal, a Special Commissioner took charge, and, under an Order in Council (1903), the Governor of the Transvaal administered the Territory, through a local officer, until the year 1907, when, under an Order in Council (1906), the High Commissioner assumed control and established the present form of administration. Prior to this, steps had been taken for the settlement of the concessions question by the definition of the boundaries of the land concessions and their partition between the concessionnaires and the natives. The boundaries of the mineral concessions were also defined and all monopoly concessions were expropriated. Title to property is therefore now clear. In this connection a case brought by the Paramount Chief has been dismissed, on appeal, by the Privy Council (1926).

An elected Advisory Council, representative of the Europeans, was established in 1921, to advise the Administration on purely European affairs.

### Geography.

Swaziland lies between the eastern slopes of the Drakensberg Mountains, which form the eastern border of the Transvaal, and the low-lying lands of northern Zululand and Portuguese East Africa.

It is bounded on the north, west, and south by the Transvaal, and on the east by Portuguese territory and Tongaland, now part of the Natal Province, and is about the size of Wales, its area being 6,704 square miles. A little more than one-third of the Territory is native area and the remainder is owned by Europeans.

### Description.

The Territory is divided geographically into three longitudinal regions of roughly equal breadth, running from north to south, and known locally as the high, middle, and low or bush veld. The high veld portion adjoining the eastern Transvaal consists of

mountains, part of the Drakensberg Range. These mountains rise in parts to an altitude of over 5,000 feet.

The middle veld is about 2,000 feet lower, while the bush veld, bounded on the east by the Ubombo Mountains, has a height of from 300 to 1,000 feet, rising on the Ubombo Mountains to 1,500 feet.

Both the rainfall and the temperatures vary considerably with the altitude of the meteorological stations, which are under the control of the Chief Meteorologist of the Union Government. The average rainfall at two stations was :—

Mbabane (3,800 feet), 53.12 inches over 24 years,

Bremersdorp (1,800 feet), 32.35 inches over 25 years.

The mean summer and winter temperatures were 75° Fahr. and 60° Fahr. respectively.

The three principal languages are English, Afrikaans, and Swazi. British, Transvaal, and Union of South Africa currencies are in circulation. Imperial weights and measures are in use, and Cape land measure.

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## I.—GENERAL.

During the year, the Right Honourable L. S. Amery, P.C., M.P., Principal Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, paid a visit to the Territory. In the short time at his disposal he met a large number of the inhabitants. The fact that he was able to pay the visit in spite of the many calls on his time was much appreciated by the residents in the Territory, who were pleased at the interest he displayed in their affairs and his sympathetic attitude towards their needs.

Shortly before the close of the financial year His Honour the Resident Commissioner, Mr. de S. M. G. Honey, C.M.G., was transferred as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Seychelles.

The relations between Europeans and natives continued to be excellent.

European immigrants numbered 175 and emigrants 57.

The last census of population was held in May, 1921, and the total number of Europeans then was 2,235, and is estimated now at 2,530. The native Bantu population in 1921 was 110,295, the number of females being a little in excess of males.

## II.—FINANCE.

### Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the financial year ended on the 31st March, 1928, amounted to £90,706, which is £1,953 less than the revenue for the preceding year and £144 less than the estimate.

## SWAZILAND, 1927.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £103,681, which is £8,480 less than the expenditure for the preceding year and £1,169 less than the estimate.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure for the past five years :—

### REVENUE.

		1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.
		£	£	£	£	£
Ordinary ...	...	80,266	80,817	87,813	87,246	84,488
Extraordinary	...	10,741	9,243	22,319	5,413	6,218

### EXPENDITURE.

		1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.
		£	£	£	£	£
Ordinary ...	...	85,718	79,669	85,076	85,542	88,659
Extraordinary	...	7,444	7,955	11,905	26,619	15,022

### Public Debt.

The Public Debt amounted to £55,000, consisting of :—

(1) The Swaziland Consolidated Loan amounting to £35,000, bearing interest at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum, and repayable by a Sinking Fund in 19 years from the 1st April, 1924. The amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Fund on the 31st March, 1928, was £5,644.

(2) The Swazi Nation Trust Fund, £20,000, bearing interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

### Assets and Liabilities.

On the 31st March, 1928, liabilities exceeded assets by £63,954 14s. 5d., inclusive of the Swazi Nation Trust Fund mentioned above, an increase of £12,974 13s. 10d. during the year.

### Income Tax.

The receipts from Income Tax amounted to £3,025 15s.

The following shows the classification of the sources of the incomes subject to the tax :—

	<i>Per Cent.</i>
Mining ... ..	52
Trading and farming ... ..	30
Civil Servants ... ..	15
Professions ... ..	3

### III.—PRODUCTION.

#### (i) Stock.

At the end of the year there were approximately 75,000 European-owned cattle in the Territory and 275,000 native-owned.

8,012 head of cattle were exported to the Union for slaughter purposes. Of this number, 6,112 went to the Johannesburg abattoirs and the remainder, 1,900, via Gollel and Zululand to Durban.

No serious stock disease outbreaks occurred. As in the past, the work of the Veterinary Department was directed against East Coast Fever. At the beginning of the year there were seven infected areas, and six of these were released from quarantine during the year. One new outbreak occurred. Only three head of cattle died from East Coast Fever in 1927, the most satisfactory position for 25 years and a very gratifying result of the Veterinary Department's energetic inspection of cattle and supervision of dipping, which has been made possible by the loyal co-operation of all stock owners, both European and native. In certain cases of diagnosis of East Coast Fever, by means of smears only, in calves, and where only one animal dies, in areas remote from known infected areas, and no possible means of the spread of infection can be suggested, the Principal Veterinary Officer considers that possibly Koch's bodies may be associated with some disease other than East Coast Fever.

*Anthrax.*—There were three outbreaks of this disease. The infected herds were vaccinated, with excellent results, and up to the end of the year no further deaths have occurred. Only ten head of cattle died from this disease.

*Black Quarter.*—The disease of Black Quarter is enzootic throughout the Territory. As a result of the compulsory taking of blood smears from all animals that die, the most infected parts have been located. Inoculation against this disease with vaccine prepared at the Onderstepoort Laboratory is most efficacious.

*Heartwater.*—This disease causes a small mortality amongst the locally-bred cattle every year, but with consistent dipping it will gradually be overcome.

*So-called Sweating Sickness of Calves.*—This affection was less prevalent during the year.

*Horsesickness.*—This disease was mild.

*Snotziekte.*—A form of nasal catarrh in cattle, introduced by an invasion of large numbers of wildebeeste from the Transvaal, caused a fairly large mortality amongst ranch cattle in the northern section of the low veld.

The cattle-dipping tanks in commission throughout the year numbered 153, and in the western half of the Territory there are several tanks in which all sheep and goats were dipped from March

to May, as a prevention against scab. Forty-five cases of scab were reported during the year. Approximately 400,000 sheep came in from the Union for winter grazing.

The Union Government Laboratories continued to render much valuable assistance in the examination of blood smears and in many other directions.

### **(ii) Agriculture.**

Crops were slightly above the average.

Owing to the enhanced prices for tobacco realized on the world's market in 1927 and to the good services of the Government Tobacco Adviser, an increased acreage was planted, the yield being approximately  $1\frac{1}{4}$  million pounds. The growing of the light cigarette type of tobacco leaf, which is considered possible in certain parts of the Territory, is being encouraged, particularly on account of the present over-production by tobacco growers throughout the Empire of dark heavy types.

The cotton production showed a decrease owing to a smaller acreage being planted and to the depredations of the jassid, boll worm, and other pests. The yield will continue to be low until an ample supply of jassid resistant seed is available, in connection with which a good deal of work has been carried out by Mr. R. C. Wood, the Cotton Specialist of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, and his successor, Mr. D. MacDonald.

Maize, kaffir corn, beans, and groundnuts yielded very satisfactory returns.

The usual Agricultural Shows were held at Bremersdorp and Hlatikulu with fair success.

### **(iii) Forestry.**

The thickly-bushed low veld areas and isolated small mountain forests contain little timber of any commercial value. Owing to the boom in wattle bark prices, many who had established wattle plantations in the high and middle veld in earlier years realized good prices for bark.

### **(iv) Mining.**

Mining is conducted under mineral concessions granted by the late King Mbandini and under the Crown Minerals Order in Council.

Tin mining continued in the vicinity of Mbabane and gold mining on a small scale at Piggs Peak, but there was no exploitation of importance elsewhere. Towards the end of the year a Crown Mineral Area near Mbabane was thrown open to the public for prospecting and mining and a large number of base metal claims were pegged.

**(v) General.**

The following is a summary of the products, quantities (in pounds) and values, exported during the five years ended the 31st December, 1927 :—

**SLAUGHTER CATTLE.**

		1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
lb.	...	3,000,000	4,478,400	4,681,600	3,334,200	4,767,000
£	...	45,000	64,688	36,759	44,456	63,560

**TOBACCO.**

lb.	...	322,350	240,500	250,190	780,000	1,262,500
£	...	8,140	7,909	6,981	22,750	36,825

**COTTON (UNGINNED).**

lb.	...	171,000	373,370	430,000	565,000	316,000
£	...	3,056	6,221	7,013	9,400	7,900

**COTTON (GINNED).**

lb.	...	73,800	72,850	59,725	132,100	73,500
£	...	5,175	3,640	2,984	4,500	3,370

**HIDES.**

lb.	...	37,000	33,644	38,360	135,000	243,770
£	...	1,054	1,298	1,038	3,940	10,157

**METALLIC TIN.**

lb.	...	337,713	539,907	621,600	424,507	343,934
£	...	29,240	59,082	67,722	52,947	42,776

**WATTLE BARK.**

(1927 only)

lb.	...	...	1,194,000
£	...	...	6,576

**IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.**

By an agreement with the Government of the Union of South Africa, dated the 30th June, 1910, Swaziland is dealt with for Customs purposes as part of the Union. Payments due to Swaziland are assessed on a fixed proportion of the total Customs collection of the Union in each year. No statistics of imports are therefore kept. The amounts received by Swaziland under the Customs Agreement during the last three financial years were: 1925-26, £15,085; 1926-27, £15,667; 1927-28, £15,738. The above amounts include collections in Swaziland in respect of spirits and beer manufactured in the Union, as follows: 1925-26, £1,225; 1926-27, £1,293; 1927-28, £1,145. The imports consist principally of maize, flour, groceries, wearing apparel, kaffir truck, hardware, machinery, building material, &c., most of which are imported from the Union of South Africa through wholesale firms established there. The principal exports are enumerated under III above.

The cotton is exported to the United Kingdom, tin through the Union to the Straits Settlements, and all other commodities to the Union of South Africa.

The volume of trade was small during the year under review. The native crops were better than usual. Farmers found some difficulty in disposing of their maize crop. In a season when the native crops are bad a considerable trade in maize is carried on.

The prices of food-stuffs were comparatively high owing to distances from railheads, but not higher than usual.

### **V.—COMMUNICATIONS.**

There are no railways in the Territory, but the South African Railway Administration have now (1928) established motor transport services on the main routes in Swaziland. These should be of great benefit to the Territory, enabling farmers not only to export their produce at a lower cost but to import fertilizers and other requirements such as fencing materials, &c., at a considerably reduced rate.

There are 373 miles of main roads and much has been done in the past few years to maintain these in fair condition.

Branch roads, which present little difficulty for motoring in the dry season, cover about 435 miles.

The postal services are, by agreement, controlled by the Postmaster-General of the Union of South Africa, but are paid from Swaziland funds. The only telegraph office is at Mbabane, connecting with the Transvaal. By the end of the year there were 224 miles of telephone lines in operation, mostly along main routes, and, with the exception of Mankaiana, all district offices are now connected up. Considerable lengths of these telephone lines have been erected with wooden poles, but it is hoped that funds will permit soon of the substitution of iron poles.

There is no public wireless service, but a few individuals have established private wireless receiving sets.

### **VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.**

In 1912 a Special Court was established, with an Advocate of the Provincial Division of the Transvaal as President. The other members of the Court consist of the Resident Commissioner, the Deputy Resident Commissioner, and the Assistant Commissioners of the various districts. The Court holds sessions twice a year. All cases are dealt with by three members sitting without a jury. This Court has jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases. When it is not in session the Resident Commissioner or Deputy Resident Commissioner, as a member of the Special Court, is competent to review the criminal proceedings of the Courts of Assistant Commissioners and to exercise the civil jurisdiction of the Special Court in all motions and applications and in all actions for provisional sentence.

Death sentences can be carried out only upon the special warrant of the High Commissioner. There is a right of appeal to the Privy Council against any final judgment of the Special Court when the matter in dispute is of the value of £500 or upwards. Courts of Assistant Commissioners with jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases were established under the Swaziland Administration Proclamation, 1907. Appeals lie from these Courts in all cases, civil and criminal, to the Special Court of Swaziland.

The Paramount Chief and other native chiefs continue to exercise jurisdiction according to native law and custom in all civil disputes in which natives only are concerned. Appeal lies to the Resident Commissioner, whose decision is final.

In 1927, in the Special Court 46 persons were convicted and in the Assistant Commissioners' Courts 3,494 persons, of whom 2,269 were convicted for offences against Revenue and Pass Laws, &c.

The convictions in the Special Court were for the following crimes :—

Murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Attempted Murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Culpable Homicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Rape	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offences against Property	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

The Swaziland Police Force was established under the Swaziland Administration Proclamation, 1907. The personnel consists of :—

*European.*—1 Staff Officer, 1 Warrant Officer, 18 Non-Commissioned Officers and men ;

*Native.*—1 Native Officer and 134 Non-Commissioned Officers and men.

The principal prison is at Mbabane, and there are prisons at Hlatikulu, Mankaiana, Stegi, Bremersdorp, and Piggs Peak. All available convict labour is used on the roads.

## VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is under the control of a Government Engineer, and he is assisted by the Assistant Commissioners, who carry out road inspections in their districts so far as possible.

No extensive building operations took place during the year. No new roads of importance were made but an average of 10 to 12 road parties were employed in repairing and improving existing roads.

## VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the community was good. The Territory was abnormally free from malaria. There were a few cases of typhoid and pneumonia. There was as usual a fair amount of

scurvy, of a mild type, amongst the natives. The incidence of syphilis showed no apparent diminution, but more natives came forward voluntarily for treatment.

At the end of the year there were five doctors practising in the Territory. There are Government hospitals at Mbabane and Hlatikulu (in course of completion), and Mission hospitals at Bremersdorp and Mahamba, which are subsidized by the Government, as well as dispensaries at the Peak and Stegi. At the three hospitals, Mbabane, Bremersdorp, and Mahamba, totals of 476 in-patients and 11,853 out-patients were treated.

### IX.—EDUCATION.

There is one school, St. Marks, Mbabane, for secondary education and 11 Government primary schools in the districts. The average attendance during the last three years was as follows :—

1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	325
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	385
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	445

At the two schools for coloured children there were 69 pupils, as against 59 in 1925 and 54 in 1926; and at the Zombode native school the average attendance was 146, as against 89 in 1925 and 150 in 1926.

In addition, the various Missions conduct schools and classes of an elementary nature in connection with their Mission work for natives, the attendance in 1927 being 3,458, and a Government grant of £1,350 was contributed proportionately to attendance. In 1925 and 1926 the attendances were 2,958 and 4,065 respectively.

Suitable arrangements were made for a single inspection of each school, both European and native, during the year.

### X.—LANDS AND SURVEYS.

Title to land in Swaziland is freehold, subject to the mineral rights which are in some cases owned by concessionnaires and in others by the Crown.

Land registration is effected in the Swaziland Deeds Office under the charge of the Registrar of Deeds for the Transvaal, and Surveys are controlled by the Surveyor-General for the Transvaal, also at Pretoria. All land and mineral concessions and the native areas were surveyed during the years 1904 to 1908, and since then many subdivisional surveys of private and Crown Lands have been carried out.

Only about 20 acres of unencumbered Crown Land were disposed of during the year, in small plots adjoining townships.

A township was established at Stegi on the Lebombo Mountains, and at the four other townships, Mbabane, Brémersdorp, Hlatikulu, and Goedgegun, a few *erven* were sold for residential and trading purposes.

No surveys of importance were undertaken, nor has there as yet been any geological survey of the Territory.

### XI.—LABOUR.

Labour, though generally not plentiful, was adequate for farming, mining, road making, and domestic purposes, on reasonable scales of wages. A few farmers who grow cotton fairly extensively experienced a little difficulty in engaging a sufficient number of native women and girls for cotton-picking at the required time.

Natives desiring to enter into contracts as labourers on the mines in the Union continued to take advantage of the deferred-pay system, the sum of £9,344 being paid out, as compared with £12,169 in 1926. The number of passes issued was 4,794 to recruited labourers and 8,411 to those desiring to travel outside the Territory generally to seek work on farms.

### XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The most important item of legislation was the promulgation of the Mineral Concession Areas (Swaziland) Proclamation, which provides, *inter alia*, for consents by concessionaires to the throwing open for prospecting by the Administration of their areas, other than portions within native areas, or failing such consent to the payment of an undeveloped mineral tax on unexploited areas.

Minor legislation consisted on the following Proclamations:—

- (1) No. 6/1927. The Swaziland Radio Proclamation;
- (2) No. 7/1927. Imposing, for a limited period, a special tax on natives of Swaziland for the liquidation of debts incurred on behalf of the Swazi nation;
- (3) No. 22/1927. Consolidating and amending the laws in force relating to the registration of births, marriages, and deaths.

L. J. PUTTICK,  
*Acting Government Secretary*

MBABANE. SWAZILAND,  
23rd June, 1928.

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# THE EMPIRE'S AGRICULTURE

An historical event of importance in the development of the Empire's Agriculture took place towards the close of 1927. The foundations were, it is believed, then laid for the ultimate creation of a real and effective British agricultural commonwealth. The occasion was the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference held in Great Britain in October and November, 1927, which was attended by delegates of high standing from all countries in the Empire.

"The Report of the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference," just issued, contains a full account of the events leading up to the Conference, the recommendations (both in full and in summary form) there made and the views expressed by the highest authorities on agriculture in all quarters of the Empire. The recommendations deal with the following subjects:—The establishment of an Imperial chain of Agricultural Research Stations. The establishment of Imperial clearing houses of information. The recruitment, training and interchange of scientific workers in agriculture for the whole Empire. The action immediately necessary to secure co-operative work in such specialist subjects as Veterinary Science, Animal Nutrition and Genetics, Dairying, Soils and Fertilisers, Plant Breeding and Pathology, Fruit Growing, Entomology, Preservation and Transport, and Agricultural Economics.

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